



Estate Plans

An Ideal Way to Support Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

As a member of the Hutter family that owned Poplar Forest for well over 100 years, Marian Hutter Stevens remembers spending her summers at Mr. Jefferson's retreat. Marian and her husband, Preston, have supported the land rescue and restoration efforts of the non-profit Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest since it began the initiative to acquire and preserve the retreat in 1984.

Marian recalls that Poplar Forest was the Hutter Family's retreat, used the way Jefferson intended it to be. In her Father's day a caravan would move the family there from the town house on Harrison Street for the summer and her Grandfather would commute by train from the Forest station to Lynchburg each day. She remembers, *"I loved the aroma of Granddaddy's cigars. It filled the house and I remember him sitting on the front porch smoking those things. He would give me the cigar bands to wear as rings. Most Sundays there were huge mid-day dinners attended by not less than twenty five people. There were invariably three entrees and no end to the assorted veggies and deserts."*



Marian Hutter Stevens age 3 at Poplar Forest, 1939.

"Afterwards everyone fell exhausted onto a couch or a bed. I can picture well my grandmother reclining on her bed with a young servant fanning her-our answer to air conditioning!" Other memories include a defunct well between the main house and the caretaker's home. She has never seen that well mentioned in subsequent research.

She and her brother would often roll down the knolls which held the "Necessaries." Peacocks strolled around and she recalls, *"I loved to gather their shed feathers and I made a necklace out of the buckeyes which were all over the place. We always wanted to play in the maze out front but there were too many cobwebs!"*

Marian and Preston wanted to insure that Poplar Forest would be preserved so that future generations would have the opportunity to visit and find inspiration for living lives of curiosity and creativity as Jefferson did. When it came time for them to evaluate their estate plans, there was no question about including Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest in their plans. Having made provisions for their children and grandchildren, they decided to establish a separate Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for their favorite charitable organizations.

"It was so easy to set up," says Preston, adding that a simple phone call to his broker was all they needed to do. *"We just requested a form from our broker and designated a certain percentage of the IRA for each charity we wanted to support."*

Unspent IRA assets are heavily taxed when the person holding the IRA passes away. So, many people are choosing nonprofit organizations, charities, or other causes as the beneficiary of the IRA, in addition to a family member or loved one. This ensures every penny goes to the desired charity.

Careful retirement planning can preserve or even enhance your financial security while accomplishing your goal to support charitable causes that are meaningful to you. The enclosed brochure provides information on several types of planned gifts to consider when evaluating your estate plans.